What is claimed is:

1.   A method for operating a subscriber unit to regulate transmission power comprising:

transmitting a periodic signal at an initial predetermined power level;

repeatedly transmitting the periodic signal, each transmission occurring at successively higher power levels;

receiving a confirmation signal at a specific power level which is based, in part, upon said periodic signal;

terminating transmission of the periodic signal and maintaining a power level present at a time that the confirmation signal is received at said subscriber unit.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said initial predetermined power level is lower than a power level required for detection by another communicating station.

3.   The method of claim 1 further including transmitting an access signal at the maintained power level.

4.   The method claim 3 wherein said access signal comprises an access code and said periodic signal comprises a short code which is shorter than said access code.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said short code has a period of one symbol.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said periodic signal comprises a short code, and said subscriber unit periodically modifies the short code.

7.   A method for operating a subscriber unit for regulating transmission power comprising:

transmitting a periodic signal at an initial predetermined power level;

repeatedly retransmitting said periodic signal, each retransmission occurring at successively high power levels;

maintaining a power level present upon receipt of a confirmation signal; and

employing said maintained power level upon initiation of a subsequent operation.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein said initial predetermined power level is lower than a power level required for detection by another communicating station.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein said subsequent operation includes transmitting an access signal.

10.   The method of claim 7 wherein said access signal comprises an access code and said periodic signal comprises a short code, which is shorter than said access code.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein said short code is an integer multiple of said access code.

12.   The method of claim 11 wherein said short code is modified periodically.

13.   The method of claim 10 wherein said short code has a period of one symbol.